

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 /064 W

-----202210Z 114846 /63

R 201252Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4842

AMEMBASSY COTONOU BY POUCH

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 0167

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XZ, XU, XT, ZA, US

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON MERCENARIES IN  
RHODESIA

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0038 (NOTAL); (B) COTONOU 0076 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE THAT THE ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL WAS PREPARING  
A STORY ON MERCENARIES (REFTEL A), BUT WAS UNAWARE THAT A  
STORY WAS WRITTEN UNTIL THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL B. STORY DID NOT  
APPEAR IN THE LOCAL PRESS. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE MADE INQUIRIES  
AND ESTABLISHED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE GAVE AN INTERVIEW  
TO A DAILY MAIL REPORTER ON THIS TOPIC JANUARY 5. THIS INTERVIEW  
BECAME THE BASIS OF THE STORY DISTRIBUTED BY THE DAILY  
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MAIL'S SYNDICATION SERVICE. THE STORY APPEARED IN JANUARY 7  
RAND DAILY MAIL AS WELL AS IN COTONOU.

2. THE TEXT OF THE SYNDICATED ARTICLE THE EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED  
CORRESPONDS WITH THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MWALE, IN PARA 3  
REFTEL B, "IF REPORTS ARE TRUE THAT HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN  
MERCENARIES ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE RHODESIAN ARMY, SMITH

MUST KNOW THAT HE IS PROVOKING A DANGEROUS AGRESSION AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE IN RHODESIA". HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN THE ARTICLE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAYING THAT "TWELVE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE AUTHORIZED THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES FOR THE SMITH REGIME" (PARA 4 REFTEL B).

3. IN THE EMBASSY'S COPY OF THE SYNDICATED ARTICLE MWALE IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "COUNTRIES REPORTED TO HAVE MERCENARIES FIGHTING IN RHODESIA ALONG WITH IAN SMITH'S ARMY SHOULD USE 'DETERRENT MEASURES' AGAINST WHAT HE CALLED THE 'SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE' NOW IN RHODESIA". MWALE ALSO SAID WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE COLLABORATING WITH SMITH BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS THEY HAVE IN RHODESIA. MWALE ALSO WARNED THAT THE FRONTLINE STATES WOULD NOT STAND IDLE WATCHING SMITH CONTINUE WITH HIS "AGGRESSIVE ACT" AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE. UNLESS SMITH AND HIS COLLABORATORS STOPPED EMPLOYING MERCENARIES THERE WOULD BE A MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

COMMENT: MWALE'S VIEWS REGARDING MERCENARIES AS GIVEN IN THE SYNDICATED ARTICLE ARE NOT NEW AND THEY ACCURATELY REFLECT THOSE OF THE GRZ. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE DAILY MAIL STORY WAS SCRUBBED FOR LOCAL USE BECAUSE THE REPORTER'S INQUIRIES TO INVOLVED FOREIGN MISSIONS IN LUSAKA SURFACED THEIR SENSITIVITIES ABOUT AND DISAPPROVAL OF THEIR NATIONALS SERVING WITH OTHER ARMED FORCES. LOW

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, MERCENARIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 LUSAKA 38  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON MERCENARIES IN RHODESIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XZ, XU, XT, ZA, US, RH, (MWALE, SITEKE)  
**To:** STATE COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
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